GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:140
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
CONFERENCE ON GOOD URBAN GOVERNANCE
MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three day Conference on Good Urban Governance was jointly organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and his Ministry at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the consensus arrived in the conference deliberations;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any Action Plan to reform the urban local bodies and funds earmarked for the purpose during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.140 FOR 27.11.2001 REGARDING CONFERENCE ON GOOD URBAN GOVERNANCE.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation in association with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) organised the launch of National Campaign for Good Urban Governance at New Delhi on September 4-6, 2001. The main objective of the Launch was to bring together all the stake holders such as Municipal Corporations/Municipalities, Non-Government Organisations, Para-statals, Academic Institutions and the Media, to capture and disseminate examples of Good Practices of City Governmance, encourage cities to follow examples of other cities, and strengthen co-ordination between National and International Agencies in the field of improving urban governance practices. The Launch was followed by a Workshop which made several recommendations on Decentralisation, Municipal Finance, Urban Environment, Municipal Management, Capacity Building, etc.

(c)&(d): As per Entry 5 of the State List II under VIIth Schedule of the Constitution, Local Government, including Municipal Corporations, Improvement Trusts, etc., is a State subject. In view of this, it is for the State Government to take necessary steps to reform the Urban Local Bodies. No fund has been earmarked by the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation during the last three years for such purpose. However, the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is taking various steps to bring needed Urban Sector Reforms at the local level, which included issue of the following Guidelines to the State Governments:-

1. Guidelines for Property Tax Reforms.

2 . Guidelines entitled `Urban Development Plan Formulation & Implementation` which include innovative approaches to fiscal resourse mobilisation.

3. Guidelines for regulating the Tax Free Municipal Bonds.

Besides the above, fiscal incentives have also been provided in the Union Budget for 2000-01 by amending Income Tax Act to allow Urban Local Bodies to issue Tax Free Municipal Bonds. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% has also been permitted for development of integrated townships, including housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, city and regional level urban infrastructure facilities such as roads and bridges, mass rapid transit systems, and manufacture of building materials.